



---

# Louisiana's Early Childhood System: A Guide for Program Leaders 2019

---

# Agenda

- Early Learning Program Types and Partners
- CLASS™ observation tool
- Classroom observations for teacher-child interactions
- Community partners
- Questions
- Other resources



A watercolor-style background in shades of teal and light green. A large, thin white circle is centered on the left side of the page.

# Program Types and Partners



# Early Childhood Program Leaders

Early Childhood Program Leaders have an opportunity to impact children's success in school and throughout life.

Did you know?

- The average baby's brain doubles in size in the first year. It keeps growing to about 80% of adult size by age 3 and 90% – nearly full grown – by age 5.<sup>1</sup>
- The average child under 5 spends 33 hours per week in child care.<sup>2</sup>
- Children who experience a high quality early education are more likely to graduate from high school, and less likely to require special education classes.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *First Things First*. Retrieved from <https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/early-childhood-matters/brain-development/>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel Wave 8.

<sup>3</sup> McCoy, Dana Charles, et al. "Impacts of Early Childhood Education on Medium- and Long-Term Educational Outcomes." *Educational Researcher*, vol. 46, no. 8, 2017, pp. 474–487.

# Early Childhood Programs

Louisiana's early childhood programs prepare children for success in school and life, and the quality of interactions during early childhood help to achieve this goal.

The **CLASS™** observation tool measures the quality of interactions and is used to evaluate every publicly funded classroom in Louisiana.

## Program Types evaluated by the CLASS™ tool:

- **Schools:** May offer early learning through LA-4 classrooms, Non-public School Early Childhood Development (NSECD), PreK, Diverse delivery partnerships with child care centers of any type
- **Head Start/Early Head Start:** Operate stand alone centers and partner with community programs
- **Type III Early Learning Centers:** Meet state licensing requirements and program assurances with the local community network.



# Licensed Early Learning Programs

All early learning centers in Louisiana, including Head Start and Early Head Start, are required to comply with [licensing requirements](#).

There are three types of licenses for early learning centers in the state of Louisiana.

- Type I licenses are for church-based centers and are no longer issued.
- Type II early learning centers do not accept public funding, unless they are nonprofit and eligible for the [USDA Food and nutrition program](#).
- Type III early learning centers are authorized to accept some form of public funding to serve in-need children (Child Care Assistance or CCAP, Head Start funds, or NSECD monies).

# Benefits for Type III programs

Type III centers and Head Start must comply with additional requirements related to public funding, and have additional benefits as well.

Head Start and Type III programs are eligible for many benefits:

- [Director tax credits](#) based on a center's quality rating or credentials(SRTC)
- [Teacher tax credits](#) based on teacher credentials (SRTC)
- [Family tax credits](#) for families at Type III early learning centers (SRTC)
- [Teacher and Director Scholarships](#) for academic programs related to the field
- [USDA food program subsidies](#)
- [Child Care Assistance Program](#) bonuses (CCAP)
- Free teacher and director trainings and job-embedded coaching
- [Curriculum funding support](#)
- Connection to a network of quality providers

# Welcome to the Network!

All publicly funded early learning programs are members of a network committed to supporting a quality start for every child through training, support and evaluation.

Your network includes:

- All Head Start, NSECD programs, Type III early learning centers, and public preK programs
- [Community Network Lead Agency](#)
- [Resource and Referral Agencies \(CCR&R\)](#)
- [Mental Health Consultants](#)
- [Early Steps](#) (early intervention for children through age 3)



# Next Steps

## Get connected to your network.

- [Sign up for Early Childhood Connect](#), the LDOE newsletter to stay on top of news and policy updates in early childhood (see last slides for links).
- Learn about the services offered by each community partner by visiting their website or office .
- Attend the next [Community Network Lead Agency](#) meeting to connect and learn with your peers from schools, Head Start and Type III child care programs.
- If you are a child care or Head Start director, attend a directors meeting at your [Resource and Referral Agency](#).
- If you are a Type III early learning center, learn more about the many benefits available to you, your teachers, and families.



The *CLASS*<sup>™</sup>  
observation tool



# A Unifying Vision

Despite differences, all publicly funded programs in Louisiana are evaluated using the *CLASS™* tool which focuses on the quality of teacher-child interactions.

What do [high quality interactions](#) with children look like in an early childhood setting?

| Infant Toddler Domain                     | Pre-K Domain                  |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Emotional &amp; Behavioral Support</b> | <b>Emotional Support</b>      |
|   | <b>Classroom Organization</b> |
| <b>Engaged Support for Learning</b>       | <b>Instructional Support</b>  |

The dimensions in each domain are best practices in early childhood. Each program receives a rating based on these scores.



# CLASS™ Every Day

CLASS™ is not only a **measure** to evaluate quality, it is a **tool** that describes how to achieve it.

Through the CLASS™ trainings and resources, early educators will learn specific best practices to guide every day interactions with children.

**Emotional Support** focuses on positive, warm and nurturing relationships with children.

**Classroom Organization** structures classroom routines to function like a well-oiled machine.

**Instructional Support** describes deep engagement with children to build language and cognitive skills.

Trainings support early education leaders to understand quality interactions to promote high quality in their programs.

# CLASS™ Training

There are many resources available to help you learn about the CLASS™ tool.

Understanding quality can help you guide quality and provide guidance to your teachers.


- Your [Resource and Referral Agency](#) provides trainings on the CLASS™ tool.
- [Teachstone](#) developed the CLASS™ tool and has an online library of resources, and partners with community Resource and Referral Agencies on more in-depth trainings, like Making the Most of Child Interactions (MMCI).
- Your [Community Network Lead Agency](#) has access to a library of rated videos to continue to understand quality interactions.

# Next Steps

## Learn about high quality teacher-child interactions.

- Attend a *CLASS™* training at the local [Resource & Referral Agency](#).
- Enroll all program staff in Intro to *CLASS™* trainings within the first months of hire.
- View videos of rated observations through the [Teachstone website](#). Your local Resource and Referral Agency can guide you.



A watercolor-style background of a globe in shades of blue and green. A large, white, semi-transparent circle is centered over the globe.

# High Quality Programs



# Developing a High Quality Learning Program

Teachers require skills, materials and support to provide high quality experiences to the children you serve.

**There are four key areas that instructional leaders must be informed about to support learning in an early learning program:**

- *Teacher Credentials:* Depending on their role in your program, your teachers may be required to complete coursework for a credential.
- *Choosing Curriculum and Tools:* High quality curriculum provides lessons that sequence learning using [Early Learning & Development Standards](#) for children at all levels.
- *Child Assessment and Observation Information:* Teachers require training, materials and equipment to engage children appropriately to document and guide their learning.
- *Ongoing Professional Development:* Teachers and Leaders require ongoing training to improve.



# Teacher Credentials

**Your leadership and your teachers' level of preparation is key to high quality learning experiences for children.**

- *School-based programs* are required to provide a certified lead teacher in each classroom and follow requirements of those individual programs.
- *Head Start programs* abide by federal guidelines on staffing credentials.
- *Type III Early Learning Centers* are required to employ a lead teacher with an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate within 24 months of their start date as a lead teacher starting July 1, 2019.

For the EC Ancillary, teachers may have credentials that apply to the certificate **or** they may need to enroll in coursework. [This document](#) is helpful to use when hiring new teachers and determining the next steps for existing staff.

**[Scholarships](#) are available to qualifying teachers and administrators in Type III and Head Start programs.**



# Choosing Curriculum

Teachers need the right tools to guide children's learning. The program leader's choice of curriculum will provide direction for teachers each day and throughout the year.

**The LDOE has reviewed and rated different early childhood curriculum.**

- High quality curriculum are called Tier 1. All early childhood sites should seek to implement a Tier 1 curriculum.
- A list of Tier 1 curriculum is available [here](#). Your Resource & Referral Agency may have some materials onsite.
- Type III early learning centers can receive funding and assistance to purchase and implement a Tier 1 curriculum through the [Child Care Curriculum Initiative](#).

# Child Assessment and Observation Information

All early learning programs are required to gather and record assessment information on every publicly-funded child they serve.

As teachers engage with children, they are able to observe children's growth against expectations. In Louisiana, each early learning program uses an online system called GOLD® by Teaching Strategies for publicly funded children.

- A child's progress is used with the curriculum to guide ongoing learning.
- This information can also help identify children who are in need of early intervention services through Early Steps (for children through age three), or from the local school system (over age three).
- This [document](#) provides an overview for how GOLD® is used in early childhood classrooms.

# Ongoing Professional Development

Teachers and leaders require ongoing training specific to early learning to continuously grow and improve.

**There are resources to assist program leaders in selecting quality professional development.**

- Type III early learning centers must meet minimal [licensing requirements](#) for annual training and are required to receive training from [certified Pathways trainers](#).
- Your [Community Network](#) may offer trainings for leaders on informational topics.
- Resource and Referral Agencies support early learning educators through a variety of offerings:
  - Site-based coaching and technical assistance**
  - Community trainings** on key topics, including those shared in this webinar
  - Site-based training** based on staff needs

Contact your [Resource and Referral Agency](#) to learn more about what is offered in your region.



# Next Steps

## Plan for a high quality program.

- Evaluate your teachers' credentials to determine compliance with current or future requirements, and identify teacher preparation programs as needed.
- Learn more about the Louisiana Early Learning & Development Standards through a [free online class](#).
- Select a high quality curriculum and identify training opportunities for your staff to learn more about its implementation.
- Sign up for a training in GOLD- the assessment platform. Ensure that your teachers are also trained and have the equipment to observe and assess child development.
- Create events in your program calendar to discuss each child's growth and development with his/her family.

Louisiana's Early  
Childhood  
Accountability  
System



# CLASS™ Observations: What to expect

Each program receives a minimum of two CLASS™ observations each year: one in the fall, and one in the spring.

Reliable CLASS™ observers from your community network conduct classroom observations. Sites may also receive observations from the ULL Picard Center.

**Scheduling:** These visits may or may not be announced.

**Duration:** Observations last two hours.

**Feedback:** Teachers and site leaders will receive feedback within ten days from the [Community Network Lead Agencies](#) or within two days from the ULL Picard Center (on the online portal). These results provide valuable information on areas for professional growth for teachers.

The [CLASS observation page](#) on the Louisiana Believes website can provide you with more information.



# Classroom Ratings

*CLASS™* observations are scored on a seven-point scale. Each site receives a rating based on the fall and spring observations. 2018-2019 scores will reflect five performance levels.

| <b><i>CLASS™</i> Score Range</b> | <b>Performance Rating</b> | <b>Star Rating</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 6.00 - 7.00                      | Excellent                 | 5 stars            |
| 5.25 - 5.99                      | High Proficient           | 4 stars            |
| 4.50 - 5.24                      | Proficient                | 3 stars            |
| 3.00 - 4.49                      | Approaching Proficient    | 1 & 2 stars        |
| 1.00 - 2.99                      | Unsatisfactory            | 0 stars            |

- The state average for 2017-2018 was 5.03 (Proficient).
- Unsatisfactory programs are at risk for losing funding and are undergoing intervention to improve.

# Louisiana School and Center Finder

The results from the CLASS™ observations are shared publicly as part of each site's Performance Profile. Performance Profiles are posted on Louisiana School and Center Finder each fall.

Welcome to the Louisiana School Finder

Search for schools based on what matters most to you.

**EXPLORE SCHOOLS AND CENTERS**

📍 Enter an address, city, or zip code in Louisiana

Select an age/grade

View Schools/Centers

**JUMP RIGHT TO YOUR SCHOOL OR CENTER**

🔍 Search by school or center name

Families and providers can utilize the search feature to look for the information and Performance Profile of a particular site.

[www.LouisianaSchools.com](http://www.LouisianaSchools.com)

# Louisiana School and Center Finder

## “About Our School”


◀ Back to School Finder

### EXAMPLE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

EARLY EDUCATION PERFORMANCE  
Approaching Proficient

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL    ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

#### ABOUT OUR SCHOOL



1201 North Third Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
[View on Google Maps](#)



877-453-2721

[View School Website](#)

assessment@la.gov

Mon: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Tue: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Wed: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Thu: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Fri: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Sat: 6:00am to 6:30pm  
Sun: 6:00am to 6:30pm

ZZZ903



#### OVERVIEW

**AGES/GRADES SERVED**  
Infant (Under 1)-PK (ages 3-4)  
Infant (Under 1)-Toddler (ages 1-2)

**DISTRICT/PARISH**  
East Baton Rouge Parish

**SCHOOL/CENTER TYPE**  
Licensed Center

**LICENSE TYPE**  
III

**INSPECTION VISIT INFORMATION**  
[Click here to view inspection visit information](#)

**STAR RATING**  
★★★★★

**DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL**  
Mr. John White

**TRANSPORTATION**  
Yes

**TAKES CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)**  
Yes

**BEFORE CARE**  
Yes

**AFTER CARE**  
Yes

Each site will have an “About Our School” page that has general information, such as phone number, address, and hours of operation. Type I and II centers are also listed without performance data.



# Louisiana School and Center Finder

## “Academic Performance”

### HOW IS THIS SITE USING BEST PRACTICES?

Stars help parents understand the practices in their children's classrooms. This is self-reported information that is not included in the site's rating.

#### ASSESSMENT ★ ★ ★

Are teachers measuring child progress?

#### CHILDREN PER TEACHER Not Reported

Will my child receive close attention?

#### CURRICULUM QUALITY: PRE-K ★ ★ ★

Will my child receive close attention?

#### CURRICULUM QUALITY: TODDLER ★ ★ ★

What is the quality of the curriculum in toddler classrooms?

### HOW PREPARED ARE THE TEACHERS AT THIS SITE?

#### WHAT IS THE HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED BY TEACHERS?



#### WHAT IS THE HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED BY TEACHERS?



Each Performance Profile also contains Informational Metrics that are reported by each site once a year in GOLD:

- Assessment information
- Classroom ratio
- Curriculum quality
- Teacher degrees & certifications

# Louisiana School and Center Finder

## “Academic Performance”

EARLY CHILDHOOD PERFORMANCE RATING

### Proficient

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL    ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

WHAT IS THIS SITE'S RATING FOR CLASSROOM QUALITY?      **2016-2017 RATING**

## Proficient

HOW IS THIS MEASURED?      **2016-2017 SITE SCORE**

**5.63** out of 7

|                |                        |            |           |
|----------------|------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Unsatisfactory | Approaching Proficient | Proficient | Excellent |
| 1-2.99         | 3-4.49                 | 4.5-5.99   | 6-7       |

These are scores based on classroom observations of teacher-child interactions. Classrooms with high-quality teacher-child interactions are supportive, organized, and promote children's learning and development.

HOW DOES THIS SITE'S SCORE COMPARE TO ITS NETWORK'S SCORE?

|  |            |             |
|--|------------|-------------|
| <b>2016-2017 OVERALL SITE PERFORMANCE</b>    | Proficient | <b>5.63</b> |
| <b>2016-2017 OVERALL NETWORK PERFORMANCE</b> | Proficient | 4.88        |

Each site will have a Performance Profile found under the “Academic Performance” tab. This rating determines a Type III program’s [School Readiness Tax Credits](#).

This score is calculated from CLASS™ observations. It provides information on how the Rating is calculated and how the site compares to the network.

# Honor Rolls on School and Center Finder

*Beginning this year, the Honor Rolls will be released on Louisiana School and Center Finder at <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/early-childhood/performance-profiles>.*

WHAT IS THIS SITE'S RATING FOR  
CLASSROOM QUALITY?

2017-2018 RATING

Excellent

EXCELLENCE HONOR ROLL>

TOP GAINS HONOR ROLL>

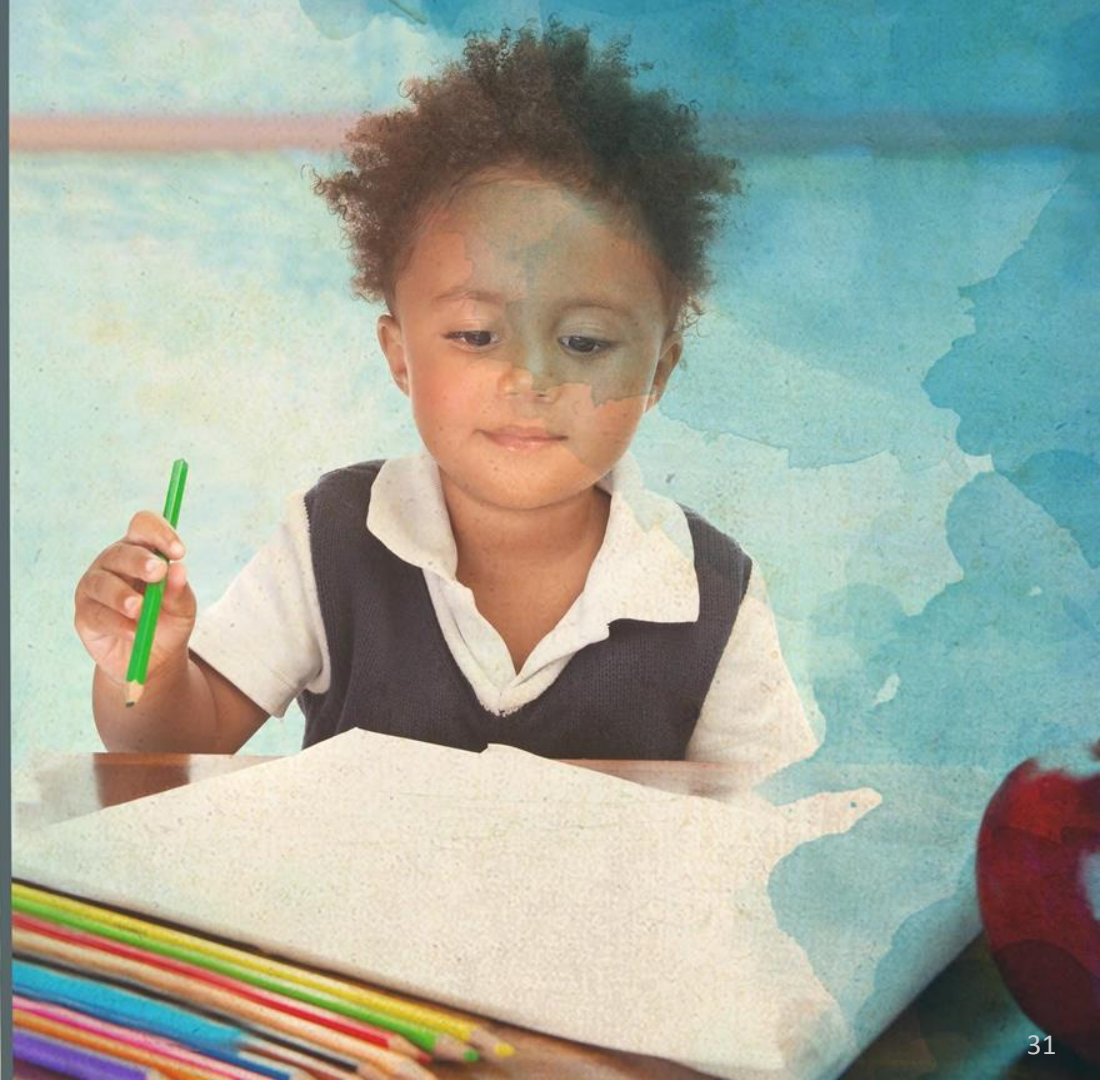


# Next Steps

## **Understand how families learn about your site's quality.**

- Review your site's profile on Louisiana School Finder.
- Contact high performing site leaders in the community to arrange visits and see quality in action.
- Consider becoming *CLASS*<sup>™</sup> reliable to understand high quality and how to promote it with your teaching staff.

# Resources



# Resources for Early Learning Centers

[Your community network lead agency](#) manages CLASS™ observations, enrollment and funding. They may also host quarterly meetings and trainings.

[Your resource and referral agency](#) offers trainings for directors and teachers, as well as coaching and technical support for your teachers.

[Mental health consultants](#) from Tulane University offer technical support and coaching in Type III licensed early learning centers to assist with individual children and classroom management supports. **Call Allison Boothe Trigg at 504-988-2744.**

[Louisiana Early Steps](#) provides infant and toddler screenings for children who may have a developmental delay.



# Resources at the LDOE

The Department is at your service! Let us know how we can support you.

**Louisiana Department of Education website:** *[www.louisianabelieves.com](http://www.louisianabelieves.com)*

**Early Childhood Connections newsletter:** *<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/subscribe>*

**Educational requirements:** *[Earlychildhood@la.gov](mailto:Earlychildhood@la.gov)*.

# Resources at LDOE: Child Care Licensing

Every licensed early learning center can receive additional support in understanding the [Early Learning Licensing Regulations](#) through their licensing consultant.

**Licensing:** [LDElicensing@la.gov](mailto:LDElicensing@la.gov)

**Licensing Consultants** can be contacted below according to the first initial of the name of the center. Excluding the center's first initial if it is "A," "An," or "The." The Pink letters are temporary assignments until a Consultant returns.

[Connie.meyers@la.gov](mailto:Connie.meyers@la.gov) A,C,D- **L, U**

[Michelle.amos2@la.gov](mailto:Michelle.amos2@la.gov)- K, M, O,P, W,Z- **N, V**

[Stacey.legard@la.gov](mailto:Stacey.legard@la.gov)- B,S,T,-**Q**

[Shannan.smith@la.gov](mailto:Shannan.smith@la.gov)- E,F,G,H,I,J,Y- **R**

# Resources at LDOE: Child Care Assistance Program

**Licensed Type III early learning centers that participate in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) can access information through the CCAP Provider Help Desk.**

## **The Provider Help Desk offers:**

- assistance with CCAP Certification to Type III centers,
- technical assistance of new providers or those needing a refresher,
- send monthly courtesy emails on current CCAP and Early Childhood updates.

## Contact the Provider Help Desk:

- Email the Provider Help Desk Managers:  
Veronica Buckley [Veronica.Buckley@la.gov](mailto:Veronica.Buckley@la.gov) and Romney Manuel, [Romney.Manuel@la.gov](mailto:Romney.Manuel@la.gov)
- Email Provider Help Desk staff: [LDEccap@la.gov](mailto:LDEccap@la.gov) or Call (225) 342-1879 or (225) 342-7414
- Submit an online ticket electronically: <https://provider.supportsystem.com/>



# Provider Cert/Help Desk

There are Helpers across the state to answer your CCAP questions and help solve challenges you may have.



# Thank you for participating

Any questions?

- A copy of this presentation will be made available in the Early Childhood Library on the [Louisianabelieves.com](http://Louisianabelieves.com) website.
- Please contact [Emmy.odwyer@la.gov](mailto:Emmy.odwyer@la.gov) with any questions related to the webinar.